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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: KONISHI, et al.

Filed: December 20, 2001

HANDLING SYSTEM AND DEVICE FOR DETERMINING A STATE OF A

SLIP

CLAIM FOR PRIORITY

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

December 21, 2001

Sir:

For:

Under the provisions of 35 USC §119 AND 37 CFR § 1.55, Applicants hereby claim the right of priority based on Patent Application No. 2000-396908 filed in Japan on December 25, 2000.

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP

Meivin Kraus

Registration No. 22,466

1300 North Seventeenth Street Suite 1800 Arlington, VA 22209

Tel.: 703-312-6600 Fax: 703-312-6666

MK/alb

